


CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Office Memorandum

Date: August 10, 1995

To: Lester A. Snow
Program Team

From: Steve Yaeger, Deputy Executive Director 
CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Subject: Relationship of the North Delta Program to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

DWR's Interim North Delta Program (INDP), as presently constituted, is composed of four basic elements:

- Resource inventory work for the North Delta area
- Flood routing and analysis of the Mokelumne and Cosumnes River channels - the consequent implementation item being dredging of the North and South Fork Mokelumne channels obstinately for increased flood capacity (which also concurrently increases water supply conveyance capacity).
- Enlargement of the Delta Cross Channel. While this element is included as a part of at least two alternatives, it has not been given much credence by the project proponents. I don't propose that this element be linked at all the CALFED Bay-Delta Program at this time because I do not see that this action has much potential to be part of an alternative developed in Phase I of our program.
- Fish screen development and testing, including hydraulic modeling, conceptual designs for prototype model (2000 cfs) to be implemented and tested at Hood with the attendant purchase of real estate. This prototype would divert into Snodgrass Slough which would then flow to the North Fork of the Mokelumne River.
- Design and development of wildlife habitat areas as mitigation and enhancement for INDP and other DWR levee stabilization projects in the area. This element also has conducted some tests of the utility of diverting Sacramento River water for waterfowl habitat development on a seasonal basis.

Of these elements, my sense is that the first (resource inventory) ought to be incorporated in total into the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. We will need the resource data (and had always planned on it) to build our own resource inventory. Our Plan of Action for the Tier 1 EIR/EIS anticipates an early start later this year in assessing the data they have developed in INDP along with the South Delta Program resource inventory and determining the additional work necessary to fill in the gaps in the resource inventory so as to round out the needs of our Tier 1 document.

The most effective way to proceed on this element seems to be to encourage Stein Buer (the INDP manager) to continue their work and to coordinate closely with Rick Breitenbach as our resource inventory scope of work evolves. Periodic briefings and reviews by the Bay-Delta Program Team and the Program Coordination Team (PCT) would also be desirable.

Portions of the other INDP elements lend themselves to indirect incorporation into the Bay-Delta Program, the management and actual work performed by Stein and his DWR staff with oversight by the Bay-Delta Program Team and the PCT. These items include:

- **Flood routing and analysis**

The Bay-Delta Program will have to address North Delta flooding at some point if not as a system vulnerability issue then surely as mitigation for proposed actions. It will be helpful for DWR's work to be complete when the Tier 1 document reaches the point of needing the information. I defer to the Program Team the decision as to whether the analysis of the benefits and impacts of dredging the channels of the Mokelumne River would be a benefit to our program. This element could be restructured to couple the flood control work with set back levees, shallow water habitat, riparian and other elements of a habitat strategy.

- **Fish screen development and testing**

I believe that the Program Team and the PCT should exercise primary oversight of this element and bring in the expertise in USF&WS, DFG, EPA, and NMFS to help design and implement the testing program. Fish screens are such an important part of any facility that we may incorporate in the "short list" of alternatives that the development and testing deserve our careful attention. A different treatment of the location for the fish screen test and the other features of that facility will probably need to be considered.

As with the other elements I propose that we leave the actual work on this element to Stein - as supplemented by other resource agency experts - with oversight by the Program Team and PCT and the actual coordination with the service, DFG, EPA, and NMFS carried out by the respective Bay-Delta Program liaisons.

- **Wildlife habitat areas**

We may find that the work INDP has done on this element may fit with our habitat strategy. It would be, at least, worth our while to get a briefing for the Program Team on this element.